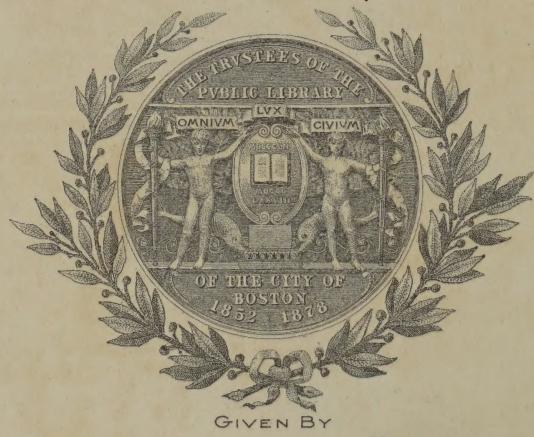
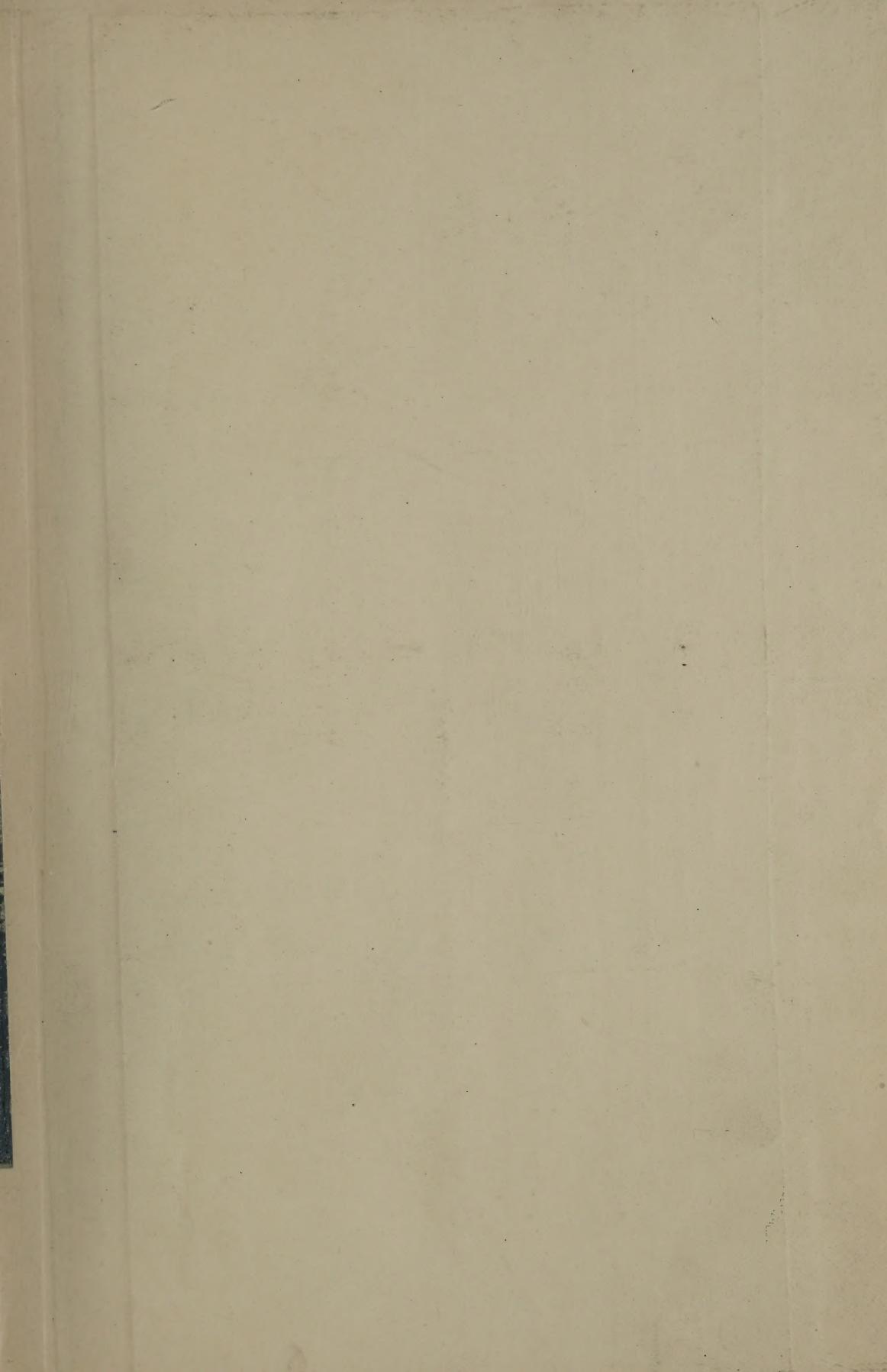




№ 4270.57



Family of William Lloyd Garrison.



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ADDRESS

TO

Done for

4276.57

GEORGE THOMPSON, Esq.,

In recognition of his consistent and persevering labours, through more than thirty years, in
the cause of

NEGRO EMANCIPATION

IN THE

BRITISH COLONIES AND THE UNITED STATES,

AND IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF

COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL REFORM;

PRESENTED BY HIS FRIENDS AND ADMIRERS AT A

MEETING, HELD AT THE WHITTINGTON CLUB,

LONDON, FEBRUARY 25TH, 1863.

DEAR AND HONOURED SIR,

We, who offer you this Address, are but a fraction in number of the many who, in this country, in America, in India, and in the British Colonies, have long admired your abilities, esteemed your character, and felt grateful for your invaluable public services. Wherever our English language is spoken, your name is familiar, and in only one quarter is it not beloved. The exception is, in those "habitations of cruelty," where oppression has ripened into treason and rebellion. Yet, even there, the victim of unutterable wrong has learned, if only from the denunciations of his tyrant, that you are the *friend of the slave*. If anywhere else you have enemies, their enmity is softened by the honest admiration felt in all free countries for the zealous, persevering, consistent asserter of opinions, that do not reward their advocate with wealth or power.

In early life, when the love of pleasure is usually stronger than the love of labour, you gave yourself to studies and pursuits that attained for you unexpected distinction. When the great cause of Negro Emancipation was represented by the most illustrious of living men—you, the youngest of its champions, divided with them the renown of eloquence and devotion. When, a little later, the path to riches and station was opened to you in the profession of the Law, and you were at an age when the cares and joys of domestic life might fairly have claimed from you the profitable employment of your great powers—you turned aside from the alluring prospect to consecrate those powers to the new-born cause of negro freedom in America. In such service there was peril as well as loss; and you bravely risked even life itself in an enterprise that, to all—save those endowed with unfaltering faith in the ultimate triumph of justice—seemed as hopeless as it was hazardous. On your return to England from this heroic and disinterested mission, you bore away with you the loving thanks of men and women, the noblest in the world, who had shared your toils and dangers in the "Martyr age of the American Anti-Slavery struggle." Fifteen years later, by renewed exertions in the same field, you enlarged your claim upon the affectionate and undying gratitude of that devoted band.

In the interval, your public life had run side by side with the history of Reform in your own country. Lord BROUGHAM, in the House of Lords, declared that to your labours, in conjunction with those of the Philanthropist, JOSEPH STURGE, belonged the honour of bringing to an end the system of Negro apprenticeship in the West Indies. By a visit to British India, you learned the wrongs to which both the princes and people of that country were subject, and returned to England to agitate for their redress. By your able lectures, delivered in Manchester and throughout the Kingdom, you were the first to urge upon our Manufacturers the wisdom and necessity of looking to India for their supply of Cotton; and to point out a course which, if it had been adopted, would have averted the calamities from which the sublimely patient operatives of the North are now suffering.

But the special work of that period was the overthrow of the Corn Laws, and to it you lent the resources of an oratory as convincing as it was fervid and fearless; yet no other good cause lacked your aid, even in those busy years, when you were demanding "Justice to India" and "Freedom to Commerce." In the movement for the liberation of the Church from the power of the State—for the independence of Education from Government control—for the reconstruction of Parliamentary Representation upon the basis of Manhood Suffrage—for the Abolition of Capital Punishment—for the reduction of Armaments, and the establishment of International Tribunals—you were a valued and untiring coadjutor. It was a fitting acknowledgment of such efforts that you should be returned to Parliament for the Tower Hamlets, the largest of the Metropolitan Constituencies, and by one of the most overwhelming majorities that ever proclaimed the popularity of a candidate. In the House of Commons, you were the steady, fearless, and zealous vindicator of the people's rights. But you were not content to limit your sympathies to England, or your duties to the Tower Hamlets. The Anti-Slavery annals of the United States will record the results of your second visit in the year 1850, when you were welcomed on your landing by the Friends of Freedom, in an Address presented to you in the cradle of liberty, in the city of Boston. For nine months, subsequently, you laboured incessantly in the same cause for which you had jeopardised your life fifteen years before. Ever since, you have continued faithfully to serve the cause of the people and of humanity.

Especially have you renewed the admiration and esteem of countless friends on both sides of the Atlantic, by the orations that, during the last two years, have so greatly helped to revive in England the old Anti-Slavery ardour, and to vindicate the great American people from the charges by which it is sought to gain British sympathy for the Southern Slaveholding Rebels. You have by these labours shown yourself the equal friend of both nations, and alike of Liberty and Peace. We earnestly trust you will live to enjoy the fullest reward of these priceless and disinterested services;—live, not only to represent once more the English people in their National Council; but to receive, in Washington, the thanks of a Congress gathered from all quarters of the republican territory, and legislating for a Commonwealth that contains neither a Rebel nor a Slave.

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